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GROUP 1700

OFFICIAL**FAX TRANSMISSION****DATE:** May 7, 2003**PTO IDENTIFIER:** Application Number 09/436,637-Conf. #6921
Patent Number**Inventor:** Takahisa Nitta, et al**MESSAGE TO:** C. Cooley**FAX NUMBER:** 203-872-9311**FROM:** CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
Brian J. Hairston**PHONE:** (202) 331-7111**Attorney Dkt. #:** 21776-00044-US**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):** 5**CONTENTS:**

In response to the Final Rejection mailed December 10, 2002, Applicants wish to file the attached RCE application.

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PTO/SB/97 (12-97)

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Two Month Request for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a);
Request for Continued Examination;
Fee Transmittal; and
Charge \$1,160.00 to deposit account 22-0185.

PTO/S&P (10-01)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Address to: Commissioner for Patents Box RCE Washington, DC 20231	Application Number	09/436,637-Conf. #6921
	Filing Date	November 9, 1999
	First Named Inventor	Takahisa Nitta et al.
	Group Art Unit	6921
	Examiner Name	C. Cooley
	Attorney Docket No.	21776-00044-US

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on March 10, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

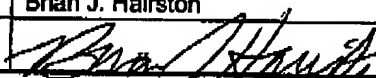
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 22-0185
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

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750.00 Clb. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosedc. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Brian J. Halston	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	46,750
Signature		Date	May 7, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. , on the date shown below.

Dated: May 7, 2003Signature: 

(Deborah A. Harrell)